

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status of Claims

Claims 1 and 3-27 are allowed.

Claims 28-31 stand rejected.

Claim 32 is objected to.

Claims 1, 3, 9-11, 26-29, and 31 are currently amended.

Claim 32 is hereby canceled.

Thus, claims 1 and 3-31 are pending in this patent application.

The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the presently claimed application.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 1 and 3-27 and for indicating that claim 32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 28 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 32, and claim 32 has been canceled. Thus, claims 1 and 3-31 are in condition for allowance.

Drawing Objections

FIG. 3 was objected to for not showing all of the limitations in claim 1. A replacement sheet including an amended FIG. 3 showing all of the limitations of claim 1 is attached hereto. The amendments do not contain any new matter. Thus, the drawing objection should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 10, 27, and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the Applicant regards as the invention. Claim 32 has been canceled, and claims 10 and 27 have been amended to overcome the rejection. Thus, the § 112, second paragraph, rejections should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 28 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,450,544 (*Steensma*). According to MPEP § 2131, “[a] claim is anticipated only if **each and every element** as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” The Applicants respectfully assert that *Steensma* fails to teach each and every element of independent claim 28, and consequently fails to anticipate claim 28.

Steensma fails to anticipate claim 28 because *Steensma* fails to teach that the terminal overhead processing module comprises an overhead generation module and an overhead extraction module, that the input of the overhead generation module is connected with the control and management information processing module, that the output of the overhead generation module is connected with the terminal frame processing module, that the input of the overhead extraction module is connected with the terminal frame processing module, and that the output of the overhead extraction module is connected with the control and management information processing module. Claim 28 reads:

28. A terminal processing unit for use in an optical fiber transmission system, comprising a signal codec module, a terminal frame processing module, a terminal electric/optical signal processing module, a control and management information processing module, and a terminal overhead processing module, wherein

the signal codec module encodes various signals sent by UE and sends the digital signals to the terminal frame processing module; at the same time, decodes the digital signals sent by the terminal frame processing module and sends the decoded signals to the UE;

the terminal frame processing module receives the digital signals sent by the signal codec module, encapsulates the signals and sends the encapsulated signals to the terminal electric/optical signal processing module; meanwhile, de-encapsulates the electric signal sent by the terminal electric/optical signal processing module and then sends the signal to the signal codec module;

the terminal electric/optical signal processing module converts the optical signal sent by an optical transmission unit into an electric signal and sends the electric signal to the terminal frame processing module; meanwhile, converts the electric signal sent by the terminal frame processing module into an optical signal and sends the optical signal to the optical transmission unit;

the control and management information processing module generates a corresponding control and management message and sends the message to the terminal overhead processing module; meanwhile, receives the control and management message sent by the terminal overhead processing module;

the terminal overhead processing module further comprises an overhead generation module and an overhead extraction module; the input of the overhead generation module is connected with the control and management information processing module, the output of the overhead generation module is connected with the terminal frame processing module; the input of the overhead extraction module is connected with the terminal frame processing module, and the output of the overhead extraction module is connected with the control and management information processing module.

(Emphasis added). As shown above, claim 28 requires that the terminal overhead processing module comprises an overhead generation module and an overhead extraction module, that the input of the overhead generation module is connected with the control and management information processing module, that the output of the overhead generation module is connected with the terminal frame processing module, that the input of the overhead extraction module is connected with the terminal frame processing module, and that the output of the overhead extraction module is connected with the control and management information processing module. The Examiner does not assert that *Steensma* teaches the above limitation, and rightfully so because

Steensma fails to teach that the terminal overhead processing module comprises an overhead generation module and an overhead extraction module, that the input of the overhead generation module is connected with the control and management information processing module, that the output of the overhead generation module is connected with the terminal frame processing module, that the input of the overhead extraction module is connected with the terminal frame processing module, and that the output of the overhead extraction module is connected with the control and management information processing module. As such, *Steensma* fails to teach at least one element of claim 28, and consequently fails to anticipate claim 28.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 29 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Steensma* in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 20020196784 (*Masuda*) and U.S. Patent 6,636,529 (*Goodman*). Claim 30 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Steensma* in view of *Masuda*, *Goodman*, and U.S. Patent 5,727,051 (*Holender*). Claim 31 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Steensma* in view of U.S. Patent 5,244,108 (*McDysan*). Claim 28 is allowable for the reasons given above. Claims 29-31 depend from claim 28, and thus are allowable as well. Thus, the § 103 rejections should be withdrawn.

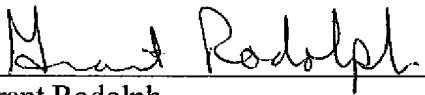
CONCLUSION

Consideration of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the application, and withdrawal of the rejections and objections is respectfully requested by the Applicant. No new matter is introduced by way of the amendment. It is believed that each ground of rejection raised in the Office Action dated November 12, 2009 has been fully addressed. If any fee is due as a result of the filing of this paper, please appropriately charge such fee to Deposit Account Number 50-1515 of Conley Rose, P.C., Texas. If a petition for extension of time is necessary in order for this paper to be deemed timely filed, please consider this a petition therefore.

If a telephone conference would facilitate the resolution of any issue or expedite the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
CONLEY ROSE, P.C.

Date: 2/11/10


Grant Rodolph
Reg. No. 50,487

5601 Granite Parkway, Suite 750
Plano, TX 75024
(972) 731-2288
(972) 731-2289 (Facsimile)

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT